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ABSTRACT

The Torres Strait Islands, located between Australia and Papua New Guinea, are an Australian possession consisting of some 70 islands and islets and administered as part of Queensland. Most of the estimated 7,000 population reside on the administrative center, Thursday Island. There are 17 primary schools and one high school in the Islands. Libraries operate in the primary and secondary schools and interlibrary loan services are provided by the National Library of Australia at Canberra and by Darwin Community college in the Northern Territory. The 14-item bibliography lists English-language educational writings that deal with the Torres Strait Islands. (JB)

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TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS EDUCATION

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Torres Strait islands, which are between Australia and Papua New Guinea, are an Australian possession administered as part of Queensland. There are more than 70 islands and islets. Most of the population reside on the administrative centre, Thursday Island. Half of the estimated 7,000 Torres Strait islanders now live at least part of the year in Queensland and the Northern Territory. A resolution for the independence of the Torres Strait islands was proclaimed in January, 1988.

There are 16 primary schools administered by the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders' Advancement, and the Roman Catholic mission also has a primary school on Thursday Island. Thursday Island High School caters for most secondary school needs, with students from other islands either boarding at the school or travelling there daily on barges. Technical education is provided at Bamaga High School on nearby Cape York peninsula of northmost Queensland. Supervised evening study is a feature on Hammond Island. This is done with the assistance of the sisters and teachers aides from the Sacred Heart School, and teachers from both the high school and primary schools on Thursday Island.

Libraries operate in the primary and secondary schools, and interlibrary loan services are provided by the National Library of Australia at Canberra, and Darwin Community College in the Northern Territory.

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